



Livelihoods are Every Woman's Human Right

Partnering Organizations

■ Asia

- Alliance for Holistic and Sustainable Development of Communities' (AHSDC), India
- Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Bangladesh
- Centre For Environment & Social Concerns, India
- COHRE, India
- Development Co-operation, India
- Forum for Human Rights and Public Health, Nepal
- Global Rights, Afghanistan
- Gujarat State AIDS Control Society (GSACS), India
- IGSSS, India
- MONLAR, Sri Lanka
- MTUC, Malaysia;
- Narishakti, Indonesia
- NOCER, INDIA
- Oxfam Australia
- Promoting Human Rights and Education in Bangladesh (PHREB), Bangladesh
- Roots for Equity, Pakistan
- Rural Youth Development & Cultural Society, India
- SAFDAR, India
- Sanio Ka Sanghatan, India
- UBINIG/ Narigrantha Prabartana, Bangladesh
- UNDP Regional Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Vikalp, India
- Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), Nepal
- Women Solidarity Organization, India Women Support Center, Kyrgyzstan

■ Africa

- BUFOWODE, Kenya
- Centre for Human Rights, Democracy and Development, Kenya
- Eastern Africa Collaboration for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Kenya
- Ebony Youth and Orphans Support Initiative, Kenya
- Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre, Ibadan, Nigeria
- Land Center for Human Rights, Egypt
- Swedish Co-operative Centre, Zimbabwe
- Young Women's Leadership Institute, Kenya

■ Europe

- AEFJN (Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network), Belgium
- Association for the Economic Empowerment of Women "FEMINA CREATIVA", Serbia
- WWSF, Switzerland

■ Latin America

- International Indigenous Women's Forum, Nicaragua

■ North America

- Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, USA
- International Rescue Committee, USA
- TSCF, USA
- WUNRN, USA



PWESCR, DD-29, Second Floor, Nehru Enclave, Kalkaji,
New Delhi-110019, India • Tel.: 91-11-40536091 • Fax: 91-11-40536095
livelihood@pwescr.org • www.pwescr.org

Why a Global Network?



Collective Sharing and Learning

PWESCR, in partnership with several organisations worldwide, initiated a Global Network on Women's Right to Livelihoods. Conversations with women throughout the world have made us understand that this is a key issue for women. Livelihoods for people are a means to live a life with dignity. The Network seeks to expand the concept of women's economic, social and cultural rights so that the right to livelihoods is recognised as a basic human right. International human rights law currently looks only at "the right to work," however; the Network has expanded its analysis to include the right to livelihoods. This is fundamental to redress the above critical issues that affect women globally focusing more holistically on the conditions that are necessary to support, sustain, and advance the lives of women and their families with dignity.

- There is a need to dialogue with various groups and social movements including indigenous, Dalits, minority groups, land rights, environment, anti poverty, trade, housing, agriculture, Food, worker's rights etc. on women's livelihoods.

- Despite the magnitude and urgency of this situation, the right to livelihoods is not recognised as a human right. There is a critical need for a collective voice to emerge to articulate the severity of the situation faced by women. We must work together to develop a common understanding of the right to livelihoods and a collective strategy for its recognition as a first step and then towards its realisation.

Women's Livelihoods for a Dignified Life

Advance Women's Human Right to Livelihoods: Join a Global Network

In today's social, economic, and political environment, people's livelihoods are threatened in various ways. Several development projects, such as those involving dams and extractive activities, have resulted in mass displacements, environmental degradation, and the destruction of natural resources. In addition, sustainable forms of agriculture are disappearing, and so are traditional forms of sustenance. Disasters, both manmade and natural, have coupled with climate change has worsen the situation. Loss of livelihood options and the break-up of the socio-cultural fabric of society have brought about new forms of violence and exploitation. Women perennially suffer the most from these

changes. These events have also lead to massive migration, trafficking and exploitation, and extreme hardship. Nevertheless, the global phenomena of using women's labour as a cheap option to substitute development investment and of targeting women through promotion of micro-finance as a means to access women's resources for development and profit, is rapidly increasing. As a result, people, especially women including women from marginalised communities such as Dalits, indigenous and other excluded groups, are daily pushed away from self-reliant sources of livelihood to welfare dependency leading to sexual exploitation, trafficking and extreme poverty.

In order to develop an inclusive concept of the right to livelihoods from a gender perspective, the Network is compiling a database on woman's stories from around the world on livelihoods. This compilation will help in collectively developing a common analysis and providing conceptual clarity. It will then provide the basis for the Network to develop an action plan for a collective advocacy campaign. We invite you to join the Network and to participate now by sharing your thoughts on issues of livelihoods. In particular, we request your specific input in this first stage on the following:

Compilation of a Database – Please send us your stories, or stories of communities you work with or are associated with. Your submissions can come in any form as testimonies, photographs, videos, press clippings, articles, poems, legal cases, etc.

Send your views:

1. What does the right to livelihood mean to you and to women you work with? How would you define it? What are its various components? (e.g. in South Asia food security, access to productive resources, natural resources – land, water, forests etc. are important for women's right to livelihoods)
2. How do issues of livelihoods affect women? Why is the right to livelihoods important to women? Or why should it be important to them?
3. What are the challenges women in your country and communities face regarding livelihoods?
4. What are some of the strategies being used by women to address these challenges? What are the success stories?
5. Does the Constitution of your country guarantee livelihood protection? Are there any policies or laws to protect livelihoods? How effective are they for women?
6. Where are the gaps? What do you think needs to happen to fill these gaps at the international level, regional level, and/or national level?

No material submitted will be reproduced without consent and acknowledgement of the contributor.

Be part of the Network

Send an email to livelihood@pwescr.org. You can join individually or as an organization.

- Your Name • Organization name • Country
- Contact Details (Address, email and phone number) • Your work on livelihood:

The Global Network will be launched at the World Social Forum in Belém, Brazil, on January 31, 2009.